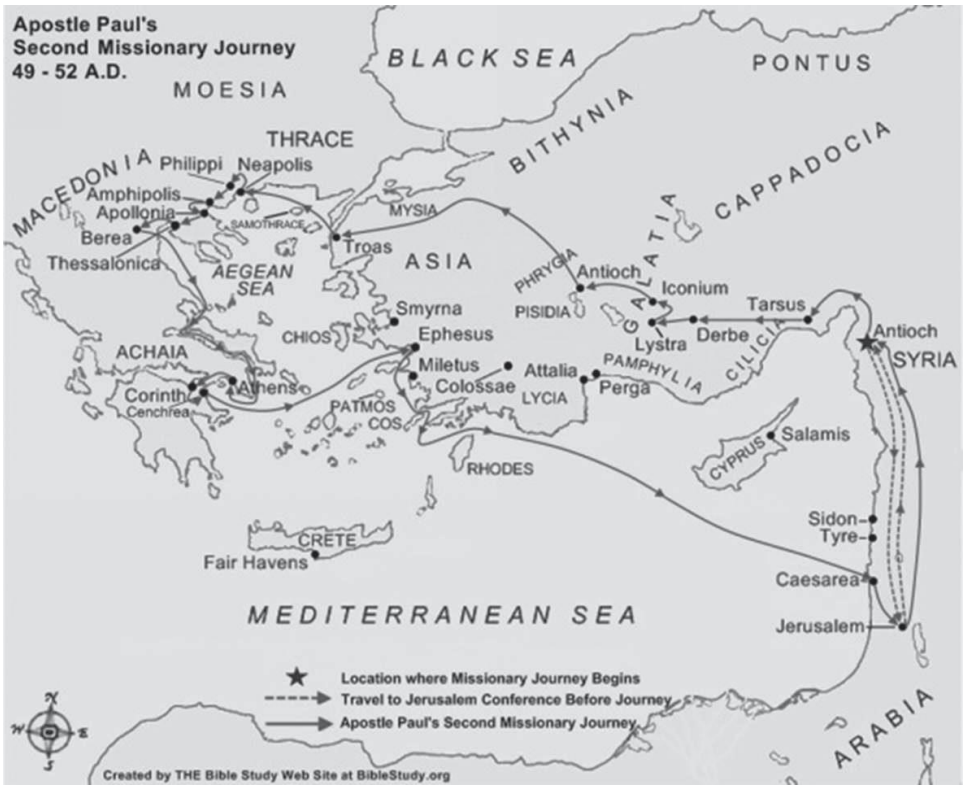
1 Thessalonians (Part-3)
Verse by verse book study
October 01, 2023

Quick review of the background and first four chapters.



1 THESSALONIANS 5

TIMES AND SEASONS

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.
2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Vs 1: In the 3-4 weeks that the apostle Paul was in Thessalonica (Acts 17:2) he had taught them about the coming of the Lord. The theme about the Lord's return runs through both the epistles Paul wrote to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11,23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2:1-10).

Towards the end of chapter 4 (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) Paul has described how we (the Church) will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. He now continues to provide additional insight into the coming of the Lord.

1 But concerning the times and the seasons,..
times (Greek *chronos* duration of time) and *seasons* (Greek *kairos* opportune time, right time, time that is ripe). The passage of *chronos* leads us closer to the *kairos* of what God said He would do.

As believers we must be aware of the times and seasons in which we live and their relation to the coming of the Lord. The Lord Jesus rebuked the Pharisees because they could not discern the *spiritual times and seasons* of what God was doing amongst them (**Matthew 16:1-3**).

Vs 2: The phrase *"the day of the Lord"* is used often in Scripture when God does something to intervene in the affairs of man to carry out His plan and purposes. Often used with reference to the Lord's return and to the day of judgement.

While we can recognize the times and seasons (and we are supposed to), we do not know "the day", because "the day" comes as unexpectedly as a thief coming in the night. In **Matthew 24:36** Jesus did teach us that we would not know the day or the hour. While we live in recognition of the nearness of the season, we are unaware of the day on which the Lord will return. So, there is this happy "tension" of planning to live out the entire season and yet being ready for the Lord each day.

Vs 3: This verses seems to describe a "lull before the storm".
"For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them,"
In verses 1 & 2, Paul referred to the believers as "brethren" and "you, yourselves".
The "they" of verse 3, refers to the world, the unbelievers.
The world will be in a false state of "peace and safety". And then suddenly, things will turn into "sudden destruction".

The feeling of "peace and safety" seems to indicate the state of the world, the mindset created by governments, by the prosperity being experienced, etc., just before the rapture of the church and the start of the 7 years of tribulation. We state this for two reasons:
1, The metaphor used in relation to the "sudden destruction" is that of a woman going into labor pains, which seems to be a picture of the 7 years of pain, the tribulation.
2, Paul states that *"sudden destruction comes upon them"*, not us, and *"they shall not escape"* referring to the world not escaping the "sudden destruction" to come upon the world. The implication is the "we" (us, the brethren) will escape and not be part of the "sudden destruction" that comes upon the world.

This parallels how the Lord Jesus described the time of the coming of the Lord Jesus for the Church:

Matthew 24:36-42
36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.
37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.
41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.
42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

The "peace and safety" of 1 Thessalonians 5:3, compares to the days before the flood described in Matthew 24:38.

Here Noah and his family entering the ark is compared to those who are *"taken"* out of the world (vs 40-41), and those who did not enter the ark but were destroyed by the flood as those who are *"left"* (vs 40-41).

WATCH AND BE SOBER

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.
6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.
8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Vs 4-8: The way we as believers can live in constant readiness for the Day of the Lord, is by living all the time as children of the light (in contrast to children of darkness), being awake and sober (as opposed to those who are asleep or drunk). And we live with our spiritual defenses on (breastplate, helmet) by living in faith, hope and love.

Live as children of the light – do what is right before God.
Live awake (alert) and sober – do not let the world or the devil enslave you in any way.
Live with faith, hope, and love – this keeps you protected.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

In context, the "wrath" here refers to the "sudden destruction" and "labor pains" mentioned earlier in verse 3, that will come upon the world, which the world will not escape.

This "wrath to come" was also mentioned earlier in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 *"and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

The *"whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him"* is the same as what Paul described earlier in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *"And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

Once again in 5:11, as he did earlier in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, Paul the believers to be comforted through the hope of our being together with the Lord.

Here is a strong case for us to state that the rapture of the Church described in chapter 4, will take place before the "sudden destruction", the "labor pains" and the "wrath"

that is poured out on the earth. The Church will not be here on the earth, but we will be *"together with Him"*, when the world goes through the seven years of tribulation.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,
13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about one year after the church had been established. It is interesting to note that within this short period there were people ministering to them ("labor among you") and leading ("are over you") and guiding ("admonish you") them spiritually "in the Lord". This is a sign of a good, healthy, thriving community of believers – despite the challenges of persecution they faced.

Paul encourages believers to "recognize" and to "esteem them very highly" in love.

Having many people serve and lead amongst us should not divide us. We must maintain peace amongst ourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

The church is a community where we do life together and make this journey of faith together. We are not to walk in isolation or independently. And in a community, we will have different kinds of people. Paul mentions some here: unruly, fainthearted, weak.
Unruly – disorderly, irresponsible, insubordinate, unarranged
Faithhearted – exhausted
Weak – failing in strength
We work with different people differently, according to where they are and what they are going through.
We must be patient with all.

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

Do not render evil for evil to anyone. Do not retaliate.

"…always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."

Do what is good and in the best interests of the church community and for all those around.

Sometimes, local church communities think only of themselves and their own good. However, we are to do what is good for ourselves (the local church community) and for all (all people around us as well).
Example: Think about simple practical things in our context where local churches are not thinking about others around us:
Sound – if sound from our gatherings is disturbing to neighbors.
Parking – if we pack up the street with our vehicles disrupting the flow of traffic.
Using public spaces – if we set up stalls, etc. without permission in public spaces disrupting other people.
Social service – we need to help people in need not just in the church, but also those around us.

16 Rejoice always,
17 pray without ceasing,
18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

This is one single sentence. This describes how we ought to live.
God's will for us in Jesus is to: rejoice always, pray always, be thankful always.
Rejoice. Pray. Be thankful.

God is good – all the time.
Therefore, as believers, we can rejoice, pray, be thankful – all the time.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.
20 Do not despise prophecies.
21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.
22 Abstain from every form of evil.

These verses indicate that the apostle Paul in the 3-4 weeks of being at Thessalonica also taught the believers about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. These believers in such a short time were already exercising the gifts of the Spirit.

It seems that they must have been having so much of the manifestation that Paul (as he did later to the Corinthians) has to teach them on how to keep the flow without looking down on the abundance of spiritual manifestations.

Let the Holy Spirit have free flow. Do not despise prophecies. However, test all spiritual manifestations. Hold on to what is good. Lay aside what is not good. And stay away from every form (appearance, expression, intention) of evil.

CLOSING BENEDICTION

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.
25 Brethren, pray for us.
26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.
27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.
28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

These are the closing prayer and blessings that would become typical of the Pauline epistles. He pronounces a blessing of God inviting God to do a complete work of holiness ("sanctify you") and uprightness (kept blameless, free from sin) in every area of their being (spirit, soul, body) till Jesus comes.

Paul affirms that God will do this work of sanctifying them and preserving them – because He is faithful.

Paul requests the believers to pray for him. We need to pray for those who are ministers of the Gospel.

2 THESSALONIANS 1

The second letter was written shortly after the first epistle about 52 A.D. He may have heard back from the Thessalonians or received reports on how they were doing and felt the need to address a few matters immediately.

There seem to be two main issues that prompted the writing of the second epistle:

1, There seems to have been people who misrepresented Paul indicating that Paul had said that the day of the Lord had already come (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3). So, Paul had to clarify and provide more details on when the day of the Lord is likely to come.

2, It appears that some believers felt that it was perhaps unnecessary to work, because the end of the world was close at hand. They engaged in gossip and idle talk. Paul had to

be very firm with them, reiterating the importance of working, in very strong terms in this second epistle (3:8,12), what he had already mentioned in the first epistle.

As in the first epistle Paul commends the faith, hope and love of these new believers, and encourages them to stand firm amidst persecution.

GREETING

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,
4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

Paul is thankful and celebrates this thriving community of believers. As in the first epistle, he commends them for their faith, love and endurance (hope-filled perseverance) despite the persecutions and troubles they had to face.

WHEN HE COMES IN THAT DAY

5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;
6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,
7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,
8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Paul once again reminds these believers about the “kingdom of God” and the coming of the Lord Jesus, to encourage them in their walk of faith, hope and love.

WE PRAY ALWAYS FOR YOU

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,
12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul lets them know that he is continually praying for them and for God's work in and through them. He prayed that:

- God would count you worthy of this calling – enable you to live worthy of His calling.
- God will fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness – God will complete His good work in you accomplishing all the good things He desires to do in and through you.
- God will fulfill the work of faith with power – God will complete your work of faith with His power, so that you will see His power accompany and complete everything you do by faith.
- The name of Jeus may be glorified in you – The Lord be magnified and honored through your lives.
- And you may be glorified in Him – and may you also see God put honor on your lives.

And all this happens because of the grace of God.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

1 Thessalonians (Part-3)
Verse by verse book study
October 01, 2023

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *1 Thessalonians 5, 2 Thessalonians 1.*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

A, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8, in view of Christ's return how should we as believers live? How do we do this practically in everyday life?

B, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22, review the list of final instructions that the apostle Paul gives the Thessalonians. Discuss how we as believers could practice these instructions today.

C, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, in the middle of persecutions and troubles, their faith grew, love increased, and patience got stronger. How can we ensure that we have similar spiritual outcomes when we face hardships, persecutions, or troubles as we journey through life?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
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SERMON OUTLINE

This sermon series is a verse-by-verse study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the first two epistles written by the apostle Paul. In Part-3 of this series we cover 1 Thessalonians 5 and 2 Thessalonians 1. We consider Paul's exhortation and instruction in the light of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

KEYWORDS

1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, Thessalonians, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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